

Guidelines for application, evaluation and awarding of projects

1. Preamble

Background and Aims

The German Alliance for Global Health Research is a research-driven platform whose aim is to support interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral research and cooperation on Global Health in Germany.

The German Alliance for Global Health Research especially intends to support

- the development and implementation of groundbreaking ideas
- interdisciplinarity and cross-sectorality in global health research in Germany and internationally
- new models of cooperation and new links between disciplines and communities

These Guidelines govern the submission and review of interdisciplinary pilot projects, cross-sectoral projects, special calls and global health fellowships within the framework of the Alliance.

2. Eligibility

Eligible Applicants and Co-Applicants

All members of the Alliance are entitled to submit project proposals and/or to be co-applicants. Associate members and other individuals who fulfill the formal eligibility criteria of the funder can participate in projects as project partners.

The Steering Committee and members of the Steering Committee also have the right to submit projects. Applications can be submitted at any time. Grants can only be awarded to institutions in Germany.

3. Types of projects

Funding lines

	Interdisciplinary pilot projects	Cross-sectoral projects	Special calls	Global Health Fellowships
Description	Seed funding to validate approaches and prepare external funding applications	Collaborative projects between academic and non-academic partners	Special calls for highly current issues	Postdoc fellowships
Mechanism	Applications any time Bottom-up topics		Specific Call Top-down topics	Applications any time, bottom-up topics

German Alliance for Global Health Research

Minimum consortium	<p>At least two Alliance members, representing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ at least two disciplines ▪ at least two organizations ▪ adequate balance in terms of budget and task distribution between the partners 	<p>At least three partners, of whom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ at least two Alliance members from two different organizations ▪ at least two disciplines ▪ at least one academic member and one non-academic partner (e.g. policy, industry, civil society) 	Depending on call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applicant needs to ▪ be a member of the platform ▪ obtained a PhD degree or equivalent within the last 0-7 years at the time of application
Duration	<p>Associate members and project partners can be project partners or subcontractors (funding contribution capped to 50.000€ per associate partner or non-member per year). International partners can participate as subcontractors.</p> <p>generally up to 12 months 18 months possible in exceptional cases</p>	up to 24 months		12-24 months
Indicative funding amount	120,000 EUR per project over 12 months	240,000 EUR per project over 24 months	capped overall budget	Up to 100,000 EUR per project per year
Evaluation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific novelty, quality and originality ▪ Adequacy and feasibility of the work plan, budget and management procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prospects for third-party funding after the pilot phase ▪ Contribution to academic interdisciplinary network integration within the Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relevance and potential contribution to the national or international Global Health agenda ▪ Contribution to the German integration in international and cross-sectoral Global Health research networks and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further criteria depend on the call ▪ Relevance and contribution to the applicant's career development ▪ International or interdisciplinary approach ▪ Integration in Alliance activities
Expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific publications, third-party funding applications ▪ Approaches, results, strategies, narratives, etc. that underpin and support interdisciplinarity in Global Health research projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Innovative structures, models, methods, tools, networks etc. that are accessible and usable for the wider Global Health community and/or transferrable to other contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groundbreaking contributions to Global Health research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scientific publications, third-party funding applications

4. Application

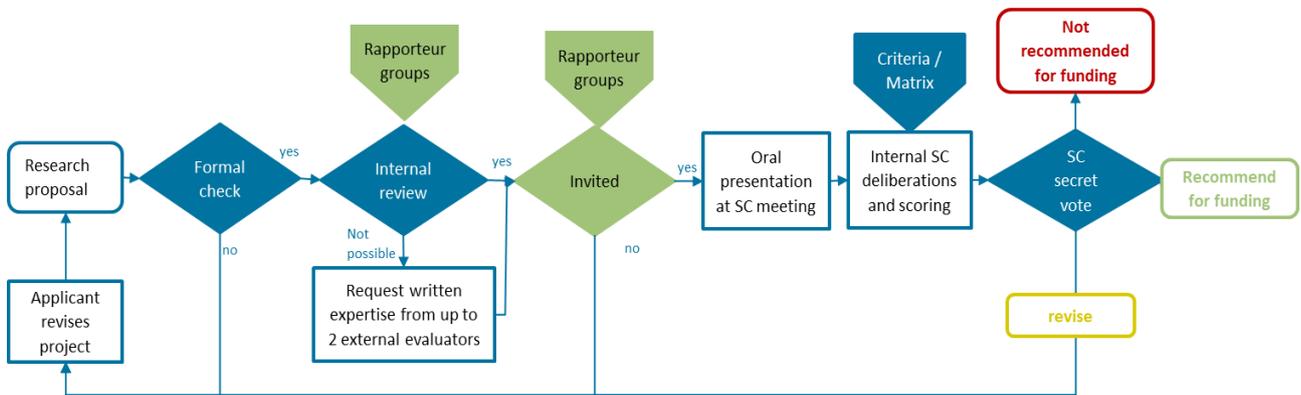
Submission of the project applications to the Secretariat

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Secretariat before submitting an application. Project proposals must be submitted to the Secretariat of the Alliance by e-mail no later than 30 days before the respective Steering Committee meeting. For better comparability and assessment of submitted project proposals, the application form is standardized. In the application form, the applicants should describe the research question to be addressed, the scientific value, the added value for global health as well as the networking

effect between the participating disciplines and institutions. A page limit of max. 10 pages applies (without annexes).

5. Evaluation

Process



Formal check

The Secretariat checks the documents for formal correctness and sends them to the members of the Steering Committee. If the formalities are not adhered to, the applicant will be given the opportunity to submit the missing information at short notice. The Alliance may reject formally incorrect applications. This decision shall be made at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

Internal review

The Secretariat forwards all proposals to all members of the Steering Committee and randomly allocates each proposal to one of four permanent interdisciplinary rapporteur groups. The rapporteurs will study the proposal in depth and lead the interviews with applicants at oral presentations.

In case the number of applications significantly exceeds the evaluation capacity of the Steering Committee, the rapporteurs also make recommendations on which applicants to invite to an oral presentation (pre-selection). The individual members of a rapporteur group each make a recommendation if an applicant should be invited to oral presentations (yes – no – abstain). Applicants with ≥ 2 yes will be invited to present their proposal at the next Steering Committee meeting. All Steering Committee members have access to all proposals at all times. Steering Committee members have a right to veto the decision not to invite an applicant in this pre-selection phase. Applicants who are not invited can improve and re-submit their proposal.

If necessary or helpful, the Steering Committee will ask up to two external evaluators to provide a short written expertise on a given proposal to support the decision-making. The external evaluators will be selected by the Steering Committee on the basis of a simple majority vote.

Oral presentations

The Secretariat will invite the (pre-selected) applicants to a meeting of the Steering Committee within a reasonable period of time. Applicants are encouraged to present their proposal as a team. Representatives of the funding ministries and the funding agencies are expressly invited to participate in the evaluation as observers. The members of the Steering Committee discuss and evaluate the application on the basis of the criteria outlined below.

Decisions

After deliberations about the content and form of the project proposal, the Steering Committee can make funding recommendations as follows:

1. The project proposal is evaluated positively and recommended for funding.
2. The applicant is rejected in its current form but the applicant is invited to incorporate suggested modifications and to re-submit the application.
3. The project proposal is not recommended for funding.

The approval or rejection of a project proposal is decided by a simple majority of the Steering Committee. All members of the Steering Committee are entitled to vote, provided they do not declare a conflict of interest.

The final funding decision will be taken by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Criteria

1. Scientific novelty, quality and originality, interdisciplinarity
 - Clarity and pertinence of the objectives
 - Credibility of the proposed interdisciplinary approach
 - Soundness of the concept
 - Adequacy of the proposed methods
 - Where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge and gender dimension as well as sustainability aspects in research and innovation content
 - Ambition, innovation potential, beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches)
2. Adequacy and feasibility of the work plan, budget and management procedures
 - Coherence and aptness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
 - Operational capacity of the applicants to carry out the project
 - Complementarity of the participants
 - Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management
3. Impact and expected results

Interdisciplinary pilot projects

- Prospects for third-party funding after the pilot phase
- Scientific publications, third-party funding applications
- Contribution to academic interdisciplinary network integration within the Alliance
- Approaches, results, strategies, narratives, etc. that underpin and support interdisciplinarity in global health research projects

Global Health Fellowships

- Relevance and contribution to the applicant's career development
- International or interdisciplinary approach
- Integration in Alliance activities
- Scientific publications, third-party funding applications

Cross-sectoral projects

- Relevance and potential contribution to the national or international Global Health agenda
- Contribution to the German integration in international and cross-sectoral Global Health research networks and activities
- Innovative structures, models, methods, tools, networks etc. that are accessible and usable for the wider Global Health community and/or transferrable to other contexts

Special calls

- As specified in the call documents

Conflicts of interest

If members of the Steering Committee are biased or declare a conflict of interest, they may not review an application. They must leave the room during the discussion and do not vote on the application.

A member of the Steering Committee needs to declare a conflict of interest if he or she is involved financially or in terms of content in the planned project or if he or she is employed in the same institute or working group as the applicant and cooperates with him or her in terms of content. In addition, the members of the Steering Committee are requested to truthfully declare close cooperation or direct competition with the applicant in thematically similar projects. Employment in the same superordinate institution alone is no reason for bias. Cases of doubt will be decided upon individually, using the DFG Guidelines for Avoiding Conflicts of Interest as a reference.

Final assessment and implementation by the funder and designated project management agency

For the final funding decision, the Secretariat forwards the application documents, the Steering Committee's vote and the minutes of the Steering Committee's review to the funding ministry or its designated project management agency. The applicant will then be asked to submit a formal application ("AZA") to the project management agency.

A binding grant can only be awarded after a final review of the documents by the funding body or its project management agency. The project management agency will handle grant agreements and contracts, official progress and financial reporting etc. directly with the applicant. The BMBF has entrusted the Project Management Agency Health Research in the German Aerospace Center (PT-DLR) with implementing the projects.

6. Resubmissions

Rules for re-submissions and renewals

Rejected proposals cannot be resubmitted. Applications for renewal of cross-sectoral projects are generally possible. Applications for renewal must be treated in the same way as new applications in the application procedure. Due to the nature of pilot projects, these cannot be renewed.

7. Reporting duties

Reporting to the funder and the Steering Committee

There is an obligation to report to the funding body or its project management agency, which can be found in the respective award notice/grant agreement and which is independent of the Alliance. The Secretariat will collect, sift and forward these reports to the project management. The Steering Committee is entitled

to request written or oral interim or final reports on the projects. It is desirable that short project reports are presented at the annual meeting.

8. Contact

German Alliance for Global Health Research

Secretariat c/o Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Charitéplatz 1, 10117 Berlin, Germany

e: secretariat@globalhealth.de

t: +49 30 450 572 100

f: +49 30 450 7572 118

www.globalhealth.de